

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8676

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AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1077

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OXEC, YO

SUBJ: 1973 - 74 - U.S. GRANTEES

REF : STATE 044854, BELGRADE 280

1. EMBASSY SURPRISED AND CONCERNED BY GRANTEE LETTER OF COMPLAINT. DESPITE REGULAR CONTACT WITH THEM, WE ARE UNAWARE OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ON PART FULBRIGHT GRANTEES WITH EXCEPTION SIEGEL. HER CASE DISCUSSED WITH SPONSOR AND RAISED WITH AYEC, WHICH AGREED TO RELEASE (REFTEL). FULL CORRESPONDENCE RE SIEGEL ENROUTE DEPARTMENT. ATTENTION INVITED TO LETTER TO AYEC FROM PROFESSOR DAMJANOVIC, HER SPONSOR WHICH GIVES YUGOSLAV SIDE OF STORY. WE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN HER STORY AND HIS.

2. EMBASSY HAS RESPONDED TO ALL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE MADE BY FULBRIGHTERS AND DISCUSSES THEM REGULARLY WITH AYEC EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFF. THEREFORE, WE ARE PUZZLED BY COMPLAINT THEY GIVEN INADEQUATE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE BY EMBASSY.

3. AYEC HAMPERED BY GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION, WITH FAISECTC ASSUMING INCREASED ROLE, AND FACT THAT PRESENT POLITICAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION MAKES EFFECTIVE CONTACT MORE DIFFICULT IN CASE OF SOME GRANTEES. HOWEVER, IT MAKING SINCERE EFFORT TO ASSIST AND SHOULD REMAIN MAJOR POINT OF CONTACT FOR
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GRANTEES.

4. LITTLE, JUNIOR LECTURER SKOPJE, ONLY FULBRIGHTER TAKED TO SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL. SAYS SIGNED LETTER IN SUPPORT OTHER GRANTEES' COMPLAINTS, BUT PERSONALLY HAS EXPERIENCED ONLY MINOR PROBLEMS AND IS HAVING GOOD YEAR. IN FACT, SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED STAYING SECOND YEAR UNTIL STATESIDE OFFER SHE COULD NOT TURN DOWN CAME ALONG. LITTLE ADDED COMMENT MANY GRANTEES' COMPLAINTS WERE PETTY. AS EXAMPLE, CITED LACK OF COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES. HOWEVER, SOME, SUCH AS LACK OF ACCESS, TO EMBASSY HEALTH UNIT WORTHY OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. (FYI: ACCESS TERMINATED BY PREVIOUS EMBASSY DOCTOR DUE ALLEGED INADEQUATE INSURANCE PROTECTION AGAINST MALPRACTICE SUIT, BYT REINSTITUTED BY NEW DOCTOR).

5. UPON RECIPT COPY LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM DEPARTMENT, PLAN CONTACT ALL FUBRIGHT GRANTEES RE POSSIBLE CURRENT PROBLEMS AND COMPLAINTS. MEANWHILE PLANT CONTACT ALL SIGNATORS SOONES AND WILL REPORT FURTHER.
JOHNSON

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